



Dear Colleague

AMENDMENT NO. 165 TO THE STATEMENT OF DENTAL REMUNERATION

Summary

1. This circular advises of Amendment No. 165 to the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR), which provides for the following:
 - A new fee scale for Determination I, effective from 1 December 2024;
 - An update to Determination IX – Commitment Payments, effective from 1 January 2025;
 - An update to Determination X – Allowance and Grants for Practice Improvements, specifically Part I, effective from 29 October 2024;
 - An update to Determination XIII – Recruitment and Retention Allowances, and a non-SDR coordinating change to the Scottish Dental Access Initiative (SDAI), both effective from 29 October 2024;
 - An update to Determination XIV – Practice Allowances, from 1 December 2024.

29 October 2024

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

Chief Executive,
NHS Education for Scotland

Directors of Dentistry

Dentists/Dental Bodies Corporate

Policy Enquiries to:

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Amendments to Determination I – Pay Award

2. The Scottish Government has accepted the pay bodies (DDRB) recommendation of a 6% increase on the pay element for general dental practitioners, and orthodontic fees. As in previous years, the increase on pay will apply to gross item of service fees and capitation payments. The pay award will be implemented from 1 December 2024 and backdated to 1 April 2024.
3. The pay award will be included in the November paid December 2024 schedule for claims with an acceptance date on or after 1 December 2024.
4. Backdated payments will be included in January paid February 2025 schedule for claims with an acceptance date from 1 April 2024 to 30 November 2024.

Amendments to Determination IX – Commitment Payments

5. Commitment payments are directly linked to gross fees, and in order to maintain parity in real terms, thresholds for commitment payments will now increase in line with fee awards on an annual basis. Therefore, we have taken the opportunity to reflect a 6 per cent increase in commitment payment thresholds. This will be effective from 1 January 2025. The first payment schedule affected by this change will be March paid April 2025.

Determination X – Allowances and Grants for Practice Improvements

6. The following allowances in Determination X have been removed with effect from 29 October 2024, as the deadline for applications for these allowances has since passed:
 - Part I – Allowances for Practice Improvements;
 - Part IA – Additional Allowance for Practice Improvements;
 - Part IB – Ventilation Improvement Allowance;
 - Part IC – Improvement Allowance for Electric Speed Adjusting Hand Pieces;
 - Part ID – Improvement Allowance for Replacement and/or Repairs to Dental Equipment.
7. Please note, that any obligations or requirements associated with the receipt of one of these allowances must continue to be met for the full period as specified at the time of application.

Determination XIII - Changes to Qualifying Areas for Recruitment & Retention and Coordinating Change to Eligible Areas for the Scottish Dental Access Initiative

8. The eligible areas for the Recruitment and Retention Allowance and the Scottish Dental Access Initiative have been updated. With effect from 29 October 2024 the following areas will be eligible:
 - Dalmellington and Patna within Ayrshire and Arran Health Board;
 - Borders Health Board;
 - Dumfries and Galloway Health Board;
 - Dunfermline, Glenrothes, and Kirkcaldy within Fife Health Board;
 - Stirlingshire within Forth Valley Health Board;
 - Buchan, Banff, Fraserburgh, and Moray within Grampian Health Board;

- Inverclyde within Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board;
- Highland Health Board;
- Orkney Health Board;
- Shetland Health Board;
- Arbroath, Dundee, Forfar, Monifieth, and Kinross within Tayside Health Board;
- Western Isles Health Board.

Determination XIV – Practice Allowances, Part I – General Dental Practice Allowance

9. The conditions of entitlement for the General Dental Practice Allowance have been updated to remove the requirement that practices must maintain at least 80% of their NHS patient registrations as at 1 July 2022 in order to qualify for a GDPA payment.
10. This change will be effective from 1 December 2024.

Other

11. Amendment No. 163 to the SDR, published in March 2024, updated Determination IV to reflect that NHS Education for Scotland (NES) are the employer of trainees and remove the reimbursement of the trainee salary to the trainer. As vocational trainees are now employees of NES, further details on revised salary scales can be found in the relevant DDRB/pay circular which will be published separately. Dentists/dental bodies corporate will be provided with a link to the circular when it is published.

Action

12. NHS Boards are requested to note each of the Amendments and follow the appropriate distribution procedures.
13. Practitioner Services are asked to put in place the necessary arrangements to meet the requirements set out in this circular.

Enquiries

14. Should dentists/dental bodies corporate have any enquiries arising from this memorandum, they should be taken up with your NHS Board.

Yours sincerely



Tom Ferris
Chief Dental Officer